



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
In Cooperation with the West Virginia Department of Agriculture
West Virginia Field Office
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MARCH RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Charleston, West Virginia – Commercial red meat production during March 2020 totaled 900,000 pounds. This was up 59 percent from March 2019. Commercial red meat production is the carcass weight after slaughter including beef, veal, pork, lamb and mutton. Individual commodity production is total live weight of commercial slaughter.

Commercial cattle slaughter totaled 1,356,000 pounds live weight, up 89 percent from March 2019. Cattle slaughter totaled 1,300 head, up 600 head from the previous year. The average live weight was up 9 pounds from the previous year, at 1,060 pounds.

Commercial calf slaughter was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

Commercial hog slaughter totaled 203,000 pounds live weight, up 22 percent from last year. Hog slaughter totaled 700 head, up 100 head from the previous year. The average live weight was up 35 pounds from the previous year, at 295 pounds.

Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

United States – Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 5.00 billion pounds in March, up 13 percent from the 4.43 billion pounds produced in March 2019.

Beef production, at 2.41 billion pounds, was 14 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.92 million head, up 10 percent from March 2019. The average live weight was up 29 pounds from the previous year, at 1,368 pounds.

Veal production totaled 5.8 million pounds, slightly above March a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 43,200 head, down 6 percent from March 2019. The average live weight was up 13 pounds from last year, at 232 pounds.

Pork production totaled 2.57 billion pounds, up 12 percent from the previous year. Hog slaughter totaled 11.9 million head, up 11 percent from March 2019. The average live weight was up 1 pound from the previous year, at 288 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 12.2 million pounds, was down 6 percent from March 2019. Sheep slaughter totaled 187,500 head, 2 percent below last year. The average live weight was 131 pounds, down 6 pounds from March a year ago.

January to March 2020 commercial red meat production was 14.4 billion pounds, up 8 percent from 2019. Accumulated beef production was up 8 percent from last year, veal was down 6 percent, pork was up 9 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 5 percent.

March 2019 contained 21 weekdays (including 0 holidays) and 5 Saturdays.

March 2020 contained 22 weekdays (including 0 holidays) and 4 Saturdays.

Note: Percent changes are based on unrounded data.